

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Replacement sheets for FIGs. 1A-6 are attached.

In the replacement sheets, margins are provided. In the replacement sheet for FIGs. 3-5, lead lines for reference numerals are provided. The replacement sheets replace the original FIGs. 1A-6.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet for FIG. 1A, FIG. 1B, and FIG. 1C

Replacement Sheet for FIG. 1D and FIG. 1E

Replacement Sheet for FIG. 2A, FIG. 2B, and FIG. 2C

Replacement Sheet for FIG. 3

Replacement Sheet for FIG. 4

Replacement Sheet for FIG. 5

Replacement Sheet for FIG. 6

Remarks/Arguments

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the careful review of the claims, specification, drawings, claim election, information disclosure statement, and oath/declaration.

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement and a copy of the cited non-patent documents are attached following the replacement sheets for drawings.

No new subject matter has been added.

Drawings

In the attached replacement sheets for FIGs. 1A-6, appropriate margins are provided. In the replacement sheet for FIGs. 3-5, lead lines for reference numerals are provided. The replacement sheets replace the original FIGs. 1-6.

No new subject matter has been added.

Specification

In the specification, the Abstract and paragraphs [0005], [0032], [0033], [0034], [0035], and [0037], have been amended to correct editorial problems. No new subject matter has been added.

Claims

Claims 1-19 have been amended to correct editorial problems.

After entry of this amendment, claims 1-19 are pending.

It is respectfully submitted that each and every feature recited in the pending claims are fully supported in the specification, drawings, and/or claims as filed. No new subject matter has been added.

Claim Objections

The Office Action argues that claims 1, 8, and 18-19 are objected to because of the informalities: claims 1, 8, and 18-19 include the terms “as in the prior-art” and “one or a

plurality of" and claims 1, 8, and 18-19 need spaces between limitation/step index alphabets and limitation/step descriptions. Accordingly, the Office Action requires corrections to be made.

Applicants hereby amend claims 1, 8, and 18-19 to correct editorial problems. In the amended claims 1, 8, and 18-19, the term "prior art" is deleted, the term "one or a plurality of" is replaced with "one or more", and spaces are provided between limitation/step index alphabets and limitation/step descriptions.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claim objections are overcome.

No new subject matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 USC § 112

The Office Action argues that claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular the Office Action argues that, regarding claims 1, 8 and 18-19, the phrase "or the like" and/or "of the type" renders the claim(s) indefinite because the claim(s) include(s) elements not actually disclosed (those encompassed by "or the like"), thereby rendering the scope of the claim(s) unascertainable.

The Office Action also argue that claims 1, 8 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. In particular, the Office Action argues that the omitted structural cooperative relationships are the limitation(s) "providing an generalized plant model as in a prior art...", that there is not a proper structural relationships between these limitations, and that it appears to be that inappropriate limitations are provided.

The Office Action also argue that dependent claims, which are not particularly rejected, are rejected based on the rejected base claim.

Applicants hereby amend claims 1-19 to correct editorial problems. In the amended claims 1, 8, and 18-19, the terms "of the type" and "prior art" are deleted.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 are overcome.

No new subject matter has been added.

Conclusion

In view of the discussion herein, Applicant believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at 408-213-9540.

If any petition is required to facilitate the entry of the present amendment, please consider this communication a petition therefore as well. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees beyond the amount enclosed which may be required, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2284 (Order No. TSAI-P001).

Respectfully submitted,

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